

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Michael Osborn,  
professor at the University of Memphis.

WHEREAS, excellent teachers are a very important Tennessee asset and Michael Osborn, a professor in the Communications Department at the University of Memphis, is one such highly regarded and distinguished professional; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Osborn received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of South Carolina, in 1958, with a major in English; and

WHEREAS, he earned his Master of Arts degree from the University of South Carolina, in 1959, with a major in English. His exceptional Master's Thesis was "Elements of Wit in the Comedies of Etherege and Congreve"; and

WHEREAS, in 1963, Dr. Osborn received his Ph.D. from the University of Florida, with a major in Communications Studies and a minor in Philosophy. His Ph.D. dissertation was "The Functions and Uses of Metaphor in Rhetorical Discourse"; and

WHEREAS, his first teaching assignments were as an Assistant Professor at American University from 1961-1963 and at the University of Iowa from 1963-1966; and

WHEREAS, he then served admirably as an Associate Professor at the University of Memphis from 1966-1968 and as a full Professor at that institution since 1969; and

WHEREAS, from 1979-1986, Dr. Osborne served expertly as Chair of the UM Department of Theater and Communications Arts; and

WHEREAS, he also taught at the University of North Carolina in the Spring of 1975; served as the University of Iowa A. Craig Baird Distinguished Visiting Professor of Communications in the Spring of 1981; as a Fellow of the Tennessee Committee for the

Humanities in 1982; and taught at the University of Indiana, 1986-1987 and at the University of California at Davis, 1989; and

WHEREAS, he has written six very informative books: "Mr. Mac"; William P. MacCracken, Jr. on Aviation, Law and Optometry; Orientation to Rhetorical Style; Speaking in Public; Public Speaking; The Communication Discipline and National Issues Forums; Alliance for a Better Public Voice and In Quest of Plato's Dream: Towards a Larger Conception of Rhetoric; and has also published numerous articles; and

WHEREAS, Professor Osborn has served in numerous leadership positions in his profession, including service as President of the Speech Communication Association, 1987-1988; as First Vice-President of the group, 1986-1987 and as Second Vice-President of the group, 1985-1986 and as president of the Southern States Communication Association 1982-1983; he was praised for his extraordinary dedication and diligence in each of these and other important posts; and

WHEREAS, his long list of impressive honors includes an Old Gold Summer Research Grant to the University of Iowa in 1966; a University of Memphis Foundation Summer Faculty Research Grant in 1971; the Golden Anniversary Monograph Award by the Speech Communication Association in 1977; being the recipient of the first Tennessee Committee for the Humanities Senior Fellowship in 1982; the UM Superior Performance in University Research Award in 1986; being the first recipient of the Douglas Ehninger Distinguished Rhetorical Scholar Award from the Speech Communication Association in 1987; being chosen "Communicator of the Year" by the Tennessee Speech Communication Association in 1988 and receiving a University of Memphis Distinguished Research Award in 1989; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to specially recognize this outstanding educator; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Michael Osborn and wish him well in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.